

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 USSS-00 SY-05 OC-06
OPR-02 CCO-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00 /053 W
-----211300Z 127137 /53

O R 211223Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8865
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00606

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), BE, GW, WB, IT, UK, FR, NATO, EC
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S TRIP TO EUROPE AND JAPAN

REF: (A) STATE 13696, (B) BRUSSELS 596

1. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TELLS ME THAT, IN ADDITION
TO THE SUBJECTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MAY RAISE,
THE BELGIANS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:
A. THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE BELGIANS, WHO
EXPORT ABOUT HALF OF THEIR GNP, ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN
THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THEIR MAIN TRADING PARTNERS.
THEY WOULD APPRECIATE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF
THE EXTENT AND STRENGTH OF THE EXPANSION ANTICIPATED FOR
THE U.S. ECONOMY IN 1977.

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B. ECONOMIC SUMMIT. TENDEMANS FAVORS HOLDING AN
ECONOMIC SUMMIT BUT HE URGES THAT IT BE WELL-PREPARED.
HE CONTENDS THAT RAMBOUILLET WAS NOT.
TINDEMANS DID NOT MAKE THE USUAL BELGIAN PITCH FOR
REPRESENTATION FOR THE SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE WAS
MAINLY CONCERNED THAT A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT AND THOROUGHLY-
PREPARED ECONOMIC SUMMIT TAKE PLACE.

C. MONETARY POLICY. TINDEMANS AND BELGIAN FINANCE MINISTER DE CLERCQ ARE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON EXCHANGE RATES AND THE FINANCIAL SAFETY NET. THE BELGIANS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY STATEMENT THE VICE PRESIDENT CAN MAKE ABOUT THE U.S. POLICY ON FLOATING VS. FIXED EXCHANGE RATES. THE BELGIANS CONTINUE TO FAVOR FIXED RATES. THE ALSO WOULD WELCOME AN INDICATION OF WHETHER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO PUSH THE FINANCIAL SAFETY NET AGREEMENT THROUGH CONGRESS. THE BELGIANS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE DURING THE NEGOTIATION IN THE OECD OF THE SAFETY NET AGREEMENT AND CONSIDER ITS COMING INTO FORCE AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE DEFENSE MEASURES OF THE OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES.

D. EUROPE. TINDEMANS, LIKE MAY OTHER EUROPEANS, WILL BE MOST ATTENTIVE TO ANY STATEMENT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MAKES ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. TINDEMANS WILL ALSO BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WISHES TO DISCUSS. AS AUTHOR OF THE RECENT REPORT ON WHITHER EUROPE AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES PARTY, NEWLY FORMED TENT ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN PREPARATION FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, TINDEMANS CONSIDERS HIMSELF IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE WORKING FOR GREATER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

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2. TINDEMANS SAID THAT FINANCIAL MINISTER DE CLERCQ WOULD JOIN THE BELGIAN CONTINGENT AT THE BREAKFAST FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, BRINGING THEIR NUMBER TO FIVE.

3. ROBERTS HAS SEEN. RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE00606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770022-1226
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabawr.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f01361d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 13696, 77 BRUSSELS 596
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3542654
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S TRIP TO EUROPE AND JAPAN
TAGS: OVIP, BE, GE, WB, IT, UK, FR, EC, NATO, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f01361d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009